

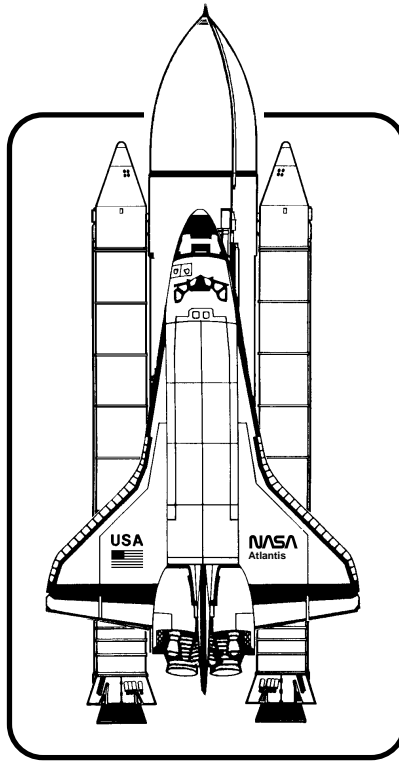
Atlantis (OV-104)

America's fleet of Space Shuttle orbiters are named after pioneering sea vessels which established new frontiers in research and exploration.

NASA delved through the history books to find ships which achieved historical significance through discoveries about the world's oceans or the Earth itself. Another important criterion in the selection process was consideration for the international nature of the Space Shuttle program.

Atlantis, which in 1985 became the fourth orbiter in the fleet to be launched from Kennedy Space Center, is named after the primary research vessel for the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute in Massachusetts from 1930 to 1966. The two-masted, 460-ton ketch was the first U.S. vessel to be used for oceanographic research. Such research was considered to be one of the last bastions of the sailing vessel as steam-and-diesel-powered vessels dominated the waterways.

The steel-hulled ocean research ship was approximately



140 feet long and 29 feet wide to add to her stability. She featured a crew of 17 and room for five scientists. The research personnel worked in two onboard laboratories, examining water samples and marine life brought to the surface by two large winches from thousands of feet below the surface. The water samples taken at dif-

ferent depths varied in temperature, providing clues to the flow of ocean currents. The crew also used the first electronic sounding devices to map the ocean floor.

The spaceship Atlantis has carried on the spirit of the sailing vessel with several important voyages of its own, including the Galileo planetary explorer mission in 1989 and the deployment of the Arthur Holley Compton Gamma Ray Observatory in 1991.

The first orbiter to fly in space was Columbia, followed by Challenger in 1983. Discovery arrived at KSC later that year and was launched on its first mission in 1984. After Challenger was lost in 1986 a replacement, Endeavour, was built and flew for the first time in 1992.

In the day-to-day world of Shuttle operations and processing, Space Shuttle orbiters go by a more prosaic designation. Atlantis is commonly referred to as OV-104, for Orbiter Vehicle-104. Columbia, Discovery, and Endeavour are, respectively, OV-102, OV-103, and OV-105.

Flights of Atlantis (OV-104)

(1985 to date)

| Times OV-104 Flown | Mission Name | Crew | Launch Pad | Launch Date | Landing Date & Site | Primary Payload |
|--------------------------|-----------------|--|---------------|----------------|---------------------------|--|
| 1 | 51-J | Bobko, Grabe, Stewart, Hilmers, Pailes | 39A | 10/3/85 | 10/7/85 At Edwards | DOD |
| 2 | 61-B | Shaw, O'Connor, Cleave, Spring, Ross, Neri Vela, Walker | 39A | 11/26/85 | 12/3/85 At Edwards | MORELOS-B, AUSSAT-2, SATCOM KU-2 |
| 3 | STS-27 | Gibson, Gardner, Mullane, Ross, Shepherd | 39B | 12/2/88 | 12/6/88 At Edwards | DOD |
| 4 | STS-30 | Walker, Grabe, Thagard, Cleave, Lee | 39B | 5/4/89 | 5/8/89 At Edwards | Magellan |
| 5 | STS-34 | Williams, McCulley, Baker, Chang-Diaz, Lucid | 39B | 10/18/89 | 10/23/89 At Edwards | Galileo |
| 6 | STS-36 | Creighton, Casper, Hilmers, Mullane, Thuot | 39A | 2/28/90 | 3/4/90 At Edwards | DOD |
| 7 | STS-38 | Covey, Culbertson, Gemar, Meade, Springer | 39A | 11/15/90 | 11/20/90 At KSC | DOD |
| 8 | STS-37 | Nagel, Cameron, Apt, Godwin, Ross | 39B | 4/5/91 | 4/11/91 At Edwards | GRO |
| 9 | STS-43 | Blaha, Baker, Adamson, Low, Lucid | 39A | 8/2/91 | 8/11/91 At KSC | TDRS-5 |
| 10 | STS-44 | Gregory, Henricks, Runco, Voss, Musgrave, Hennen | 39A | 11/24/91 | 12/1/91 At Edwards | DSP |
| 11 | STS-45 | Bolden, Duffy, Sullivan, Leestma, Foale, Frimout, Lichtenberg | 39A | 3/24/92 | 4/2/92 At KSC | ATLAS-1 |
| 12 | STS-46 | Shriver, Allen, Hoffman, Chang-Diaz, Ivins, Nicollier, Malerba | 39B | 7/31/92 | 8/8/92 At KSC | TSS, EURECA deploy |
| 13 | STS-66 | McMonagle, Brown, Ochoa, Tanner, Parazynski, Clervoy | 39B | 11/3/94 | 11/14/94 At Edwards | ATLAS-3 |
| 14 | STS-71 | Gibson, Precourt, Baker Harbaugh, Dunbar. Embarking (Mir 19): Solovyev, Budarin. Returning (Mir 18): Thagard, Dezhurov, Strekalov. | 39A | 6/27/95 | 7/7/95 At KSC | 1st Shuttle-Mir docking |